REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-41 are pending herein, claims 1, 11, 22, 28, 30, 33, 38, 39, 40 and 41 being independent. By the amendment above, claims 2 and 26 have been amended to correct obvious typographical errors in the dependencies thereof. It is believed that these amendments are cosmetic only. No new matter has been added.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2 and 26 for errors in the dependencies thereof. By the amendment above these errors have been corrected. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner then rejected claims 28, 30-32, 38 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,870,828 (Giordano, III); claims 1-14, 16-24, 27, 29, 33, 35-37, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Giordano, III in view of United States Patent No. 5,946,647 (Miller, *et al.*); claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Giordano, III in view of Miller, *et al.*, further in view of United states Patent No. 6,317,781 (DeBoor, *et al.*); claims 15 and 25 as obvious over Giordano, III in view of Miller, *et al.*, further in view of United States Published Application Publ. No. 2003/0152207 (Ryan); and claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Giordano, III in view of Miller, *et al.* further in view of United States Patent No. 6,501,779 (McLaughlin, *et al.*).

The applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's objections and rejections, together with the arguments and analysis supplied therewith, and finds that he respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's conclusions. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentably distinct from the references applied by the Examiner, and so early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

The following description is taken from the specification and is provided for the Examiner's convenience. It is not intended to argue limitations not present in the claims or to narrow the construction of any terms used herein.

The invention is directed to a method for allowing a user to dial telephone numbers displayed on a web page or in some other document on a computer screen, or take some other specified action directly from the electronically-displayed document without the need to open a separate program, *i.e.*, a program different than the program used to display the page or document. For example, the method may automatically detect the presence of a telephone number in a web page, highlight the number, and allow the user to click on the highlighted number to dial it directly from the user's browser through an auto-dialer, without the need to open or implement another program or to implement a different user interface (UI). This novel implementation may have other embodiments, such as automatically detecting an address on a web page (whether brick-and-mortar or e-mail) and highlighting it for clipping to an address book, in which information of a specified type appearing in a standardized format may be recognized. Once a specific instance of the data type is recognized, the user is given the option of performing one or more predetermined actions on the instance.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention (claims 10-27 and 36-39), the document is a Document Object Model (DOM) of a HTML/XML document, such as a web page, and the method provides for performing the recognition of the type of data in "real time", *i.e.*, without a denigration of the response of the underlying system to the input of the document. In this fashion, the transparency of the method to the user will be enhanced, and the user's efficiency of using the underlying information will not be degraded by being forced to operate in a different

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UI to benefit from the improved functionality of the browser. The native browser may therefore offer this added functionality without having to be changed, modified or otherwise updated.

According to another preferred embodiment of the invention (claim 15), the user has the option of "teaching" the method new or modified types of data, by providing feedback to the method of a previously unrecognized format of the desired data type. Thus, if the method has been "taught" that a telephone number is in the format NNN-NNN-NNNN, where "N" is an integer or digit, it would not recognize a telephone number which includes letters. For example, many telephone companies utilized exchanges which were identified by a two *letter* exchange designation, followed by a single digit, followed by four numbers. A classic example of this is the 1940's song "PEnnsylvania 6-5000", where the exchange "PE6" was followed by the number "5000". If a web page contains such a telephone number, the user could mark it as a template and then add this definition of telephone numbers to the standard type, and therefore provide feedback to the method to refine its ability to recognize new and different patterns in its parsing of the data in the document.

These features are not shown or suggested in the references applied by the Examiner.

The primary reference applied by the Examiner, Giordano, III, is directed to a method and apparatus for iconifying and automatically dialing telephone numbers in a web page. Giordano, III teaches searching the text in a web page or other type of HTML document for "telephone numbers having a standard format" (col. 2, lines 17-21). Once found, these telephone numbers are "iconified" to permit automatic dialing of the selected number (col. 2, lines 60-63), and then displayed on a device which does not run on or from the browser, and therefore requires that a program distinct from the browser be running. (col. 3, lines 27-29). ("The files are sent to the user's Internet-capable telephone and the Web page is displayed on the telephone's screen.").

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The program may also generate a second document with the highlighting, rather than loading the highlighting in the original document as in the claimed invention. No provision is made for the usage of the method to be transparent to the user by operating a known UI within a different program, such as a browser. Giordano, III teaches that the method thereof must operate separate from existing interfaces, and apart from standard browsers.

Each claim of the pending application contains language which points out this distinction (shown in bold in the independent claims reproduced below):

1. A method for automatically detecting a specified type of data in a markup language document and for providing functionality for any detected instances of the specified data type in the markup language document, comprising the steps of:

loading the markup language document into a browser capable of visually rendering the markup language document;

automatically identifying any instances of the specified type of data in the markup language document;

visually rendering the loaded markup language document, wherein said step of visually rendering the loaded markup language document comprises the step of:

visually rendering any identified instances of the specified data type in the loaded markup language document such that **each one of any identified instances stands out visually in the visually rendered markup language document**; and

providing a functionality for performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon any of **the identified instances standing out in the visually rendered markup language document**, wherein said functionality comprises the step of:

in response to only a single action **being performed by a user of the browser** in relation to any of the identified instances standing out in the visually rendered markup language document, performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon any of the identified instances standing out in the visually rendered markup language document.

11. A method for automatically detecting a specified type of data in an HTML or XML document (HTML/XML document) and for performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon at least one selected instance of the specified data type in the HTML/XML document, comprising the steps of:

loading the HTML/XML document **into a browser** of HTML/XML documents (HTML/XML browser);

automatically detecting any instance of the specified data type in the HTML/XML document;

presenting the loaded HTML/XML document **in the HTML/XML browser**;

highlighting any detected instance of the specified data type **in the displayed HTML/XML document**; and

when a user **of the HTML/XML browser** selects at least one highlighted instance of the specified data type in the displayed HTML/XML document, performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon said at least one selected instance of the specified data type.

22. A method for assisting a user in calling or storing a telephone number comprising the steps of:

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automatically detecting any instance of a telephone number **in an HTML or XML web page being downloaded to a web browser**;

providing functionality that (i) **highlights any detected telephone number in the downloaded web page**; and (ii) allows the user to select any highlighted detected telephone number **in the downloaded web page**;

if the user selects a highlighted detected telephone number, extracting the selected highlighted telephone number; and

at least one of:

passing the extracted telephone number to a telephony program in order that the telephony program initiate a telephone call; and

storing the extracted telephone number in memory.

28. A method for dialing a telephone number comprising the steps of:

automatically detecting, by a client system, any instance of a telephone number **in a web page**;

rendering, by the client system, any detected instance of a telephone number such that **each identified instance stands out in the rendered web page**; and

in response to only a single action being performed by a user on a detected instance of a telephone number **on the rendered web page**, dialing said telephone number.

30. A method for assisting a user in performing an operation on a telephone number comprising the steps of:

automatically detecting, by a client system, any instance of a telephone number **in a web page**;

rendering, by the client system, any detected instance of a telephone number such that **each identified instance stands out in the rendered web page**; and

in response to a user at least selecting an instance of a telephone number on the **rendered web page**, performing at least one predefined operation on said telephone number.

33. A method for assisting a user in performing operations on a telephone number comprising the steps of:

providing functionality by a module on a client system, said module being separate from a web browser on the client system, wherein said functionality comprises:

automatically detecting any instance of a telephone number in a web page being downloaded by the web browser;

rendering, by the web browser, any detected instance of a telephone number such that each identified instance stands out in the rendered web page;

making each identified instance of a telephone number capable of being selected by a user; and

in response to a user at least selecting an instance of a telephone number on the **rendered web page**, performing at least one predefined operation on said telephone number.

38. A method for detecting telephone numbers comprising the step of:

automatically detecting any instance of a telephone number in a HTML or XML document (HTML/XML document) **being downloaded to a browser** of HTML/XML documents (HTML/XML browser) by performing the sub-step of:

parsing a run-time Document Object Model (DOM) of the HTML/XML document by **inserting programming code into the run-time DOM** of the HTML/XML document, wherein said inserted programming code **parses the run-time DOM**.

39. A method for automatically detecting a specified type of data in a HTML or XML document (HTML/XML document) and for providing functionality for any detected instances of the specified data type in the HTML/XML document, comprising the steps of:

automatically detecting any instances of the specified type of data in the HTML/XML document by performing the sub-step of:

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parsing a run-time Document Object Model (DOM) of the HTML/XML document by **inserting programming code into the run-time DOM** of the HTML/XML document, wherein said inserted programming code parses the run-time DOM; and

providing a functionality for performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon any of the detected instances, wherein said functionality is neither intrinsic to, nor defined by, the markup language.

40. A method for automatically detecting a specified type of data in a markup language document and for providing functionality for any detected instances of the specified data type **in the markup language document**, comprising the steps of:

automatically detecting any instances of the specified type of data in the markup language document, wherein the specified type of data is not identified or otherwise indicated by a markup language tag; and

providing a functionality for performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon any of the automatically detected instances, wherein said functionality is neither intrinsic to, nor defined by, the markup language.

41. A method for dialing a telephone number comprising the steps of:

rendering, by the client system, any detected instance of a telephone number on a **displayed web page** such that each identified instance stands out; and

in response to at least one action performed by a user on a detected instance of a telephone number on the **displayed web page**, dialing said telephone number.

Additionally, Giordano, III *only* searches for numeric telephone numbers, and *excludes* any alpha-character from consideration as a telephone number. (col. 3, lines 53-58) ("If the character is non-numeric (225), HTML parsing continues."). Giordano, III expressly limits the modification of the algorithm taught therein to add any additional types of format, and is capable only of restricting or excluding certain pre-defined telephone number formats. (col. 3, lines 37-42). ("In this case, a restrictor is used to direct the pattern-recognition software to only recognize

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or to ignore certain area codes, not to iconify certain foreign-country telephone numbers, or to iconify only telephone numbers associated with specific text headings such as 'Customer Support.'").

Thus, Giordano, III fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

The addition of the Miller, *et al.* patent overcomes none of the deficiencies of the Giordano, III patent. Furthermore, the Examiner has pointed to no motivation to combine these two patents at all, or in the specific fashion suggested by the Examiner, and so the combination fails to render obvious the claimed invention.

Miller, *et al.* are directed to a system and method for performing an action on a structure in data generated by a computer through program 167. Miller, *et al.* describe the use of a program 165 to parse the data from program 167 and then link an action to a detected structure in that data. Program 165 operates apart from the application 167 used to create the data structure. (col. 3, lines 38-44). ("The program 165 of the present invention is stored in RAM 170 and causes CPU 120 to identify structures in the data presented by application 167 ..."). Miller, *et al.* may also generate a new document for the display.

Thus, both Giordano, III and Miller, *et al.* agree that operation of methods to automatically dial phone numbers appearing in a browsed web page must be performed in interfaces which operate outside of the web browser and which may generate new documents with highlighting therein. In such an implementation, a user would have to go to his or her browser to find a web page that contains the information of interest, then save the web page, open a new program, with a different interface, and then bring the saved web page into the new program.

In contrast, the claimed method operates to find the desired type of data (*e.g.*, telephone numbers) in a web page *while it is being viewed through the user's browser*, and highlight the telephone number right then and there. This is accomplished by the steps of the independent claims highlighted above. The user does not have to interrupt his/her browsing to save or dial the number, and can continue on with barely a pause in browsing, let alone leaving the browser and opening a new program altogether. The use of the consistent UI makes the process transparent to the user. This is a significant advance over the prior art as represented by *both* Giordano, III and Miller, *et al.* Accordingly, withdrawal of all rejections based on either or both of these references is respectfully requested.

Additionally, neither Giordano, III nor Miller, *et al.* teach or suggest the operation of the methods thereof on a DOM as claimed with respect to the mentioned alternative embodiments of the invention, as described above (claims 12-15, 23-25 and 36-39).

The Examiner has agreed that the primary combination of Giordano, III in view of Miller, *et al.* has failed to teach or suggest the use of user feedback as claimed in claim 15, and has opined that Ryan makes up this shortfall to render claim 15 obvious. The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assessment. First, Ryan overcomes none of the aforementioned deficiencies of the primary combination. Second, Ryan is directed to a completely different field of endeavor. Third, Ryan fails to teach or suggest the use of feedback as claimed in claim 15.

The claimed method (claim 15) allows for modifying the future parsing of documents by identifying a previously *undetected* instance of the type of data by modifying the expression string upon which searches are performed. The passage in Ryan identified by the Examiner (¶ 0063, lines 8-13) says that a specific telephone number can be highlighted by a user and added to a list of "desired" callers. Ryan does not teach *modifying* future searches to accept as desired

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expression strings a new type of expression string to detect such a previously *undetected* instance of the specified data type.

Ryan is directed to a telephone homepage call screening center which allows users to screen their calls, *i.e.*, to allow incoming telephone calls from certain calling telephone numbers to be received while excluding others. Ryan does not address the issue of finding telephone numbers in a web page, or finding documents in a data structure or finding telephone numbers anywhere. The number is attached to an incoming call when Ryan first learns of it, and the user is given the opportunity to accept the call or reject it. No parsing of a web page or other form of document is involved. Thus, Ryan is not related prior art to the claimed invention.

Furthermore, Ryan presupposes that the newly "desired" telephone number is identified as a telephone number, but is simply not a *desired* telephone number. Ryan offers no guidance on how to modify a future search based on this addition to the preferred list, since, indeed, Ryan does no searching at all. Thus, Ryan fails to teach or suggest this aspect of the claimed invention.

Withdrawal of the rejection based on the primary combination in view of Ryan is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner has also failed to point to any place in the prior art that would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner, and, if the combination were to be attempted, that a combination of the elements of the disparate references could result in a method such as claimed by the applicant herein. For example, while Giordano, III expressly teaches that only numbers in one of a specified pattern may be recognized as the data being searched for, Miller, *et al.*, state *any* kind of data may be searched, but do not limit the information of interest to telephone numbers. Thus, neither reference teach

looking for a *telephone number* in non-text data, or that non-text data may have a telephone number in it. If such data was present in non-text data, *neither* patent teaches how to find it.
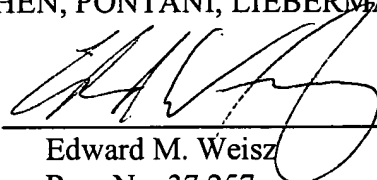
The addition of the other references applied by the Examiner, McGlaughlin, *et al.* and DeBoor, *et al.*, overcome none of the deficiencies of Giordano, III, Miller, *et al.* and Ryan and so, taken in any combination, these references fail to teach or suggest the invention as claimed.

For all these reasons, therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed is patentably distinct from the references applied by the Examiner, taken alone or in any combination. Accordingly, all objections and rejections having been addressed, early and favorable action on the instant application is respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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